

uniform pay the price every day in Iraq for that failure.

Yes, we need to support; yes, we need to unify; yes, we need to indicate our appreciation for our troops; but more important, we need to learn from this experience. How do we improve our intelligence and our military execution so that our soldiers are not unnecessarily put in harm's way in the future? Our families at home and our troops overseas deserve for us to do it right.

#### THE TOTALITARIAN GULAG IN CUBA

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. Speaker, exactly 1 year ago, taking advantage of the attention of the world on the liberation of Iraq where U.S. Armed Forces and coalition forces eliminated a dangerous madman from power, that formerly oppressed country, the Cuban dictator 90 miles from the United States utilizing that cover of attention on Iraq, commenced a campaign to throw dozens of peaceful pro-democracy activists, librarians and economists and journalists and students and workers and others into the totalitarian gulag where they joined the thousands of others who languish as political prisoners in that enslaved island.

Mr. Speaker, each day we must remind the world of the existence of the totalitarian gulag 90 miles from the United States. We must demand the release of each and every political prisoner on that island. We must not rest until they are all free.

#### REGARDING IRAQ RESOLUTION

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the Iraq resolution that I will vote "no" on today.

Republicans would like us to say America is safer. I wish that were true, but it is not. We have only to look at what happened in Spain to be reminded. Terrorism threatens America today just as much as terrorism threatened America before we invaded Iraq.

Make no mistake, I wholeheartedly support the U.S. soldiers. My support does not stop at the Iraq border, nor is my support bounded by political party. I regularly visit troops at Walter Reed Hospital, and I urge every Member to do so. They are the best soldiers and they make America proud.

I would like to pass a resolution praising our soldiers, but this Republican resolution is meant to legitimize a position the administration cannot defend at home or abroad. Look at the Spanish election. We have lost soldiers. We continue to lose them. We have lost credibility. And we have found nothing.

This is not worthy of a victory lap. I will not sing the praises of the Bush doctrine.

#### SHALLOWATER HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

(Mr. NEUGEBAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Shallowater High School State champion boys and girls basketball teams. Within the span of 1 week, the Shallowater boys teams followed the girls in an elite list of State basketball championships. This is an unprecedented victory for the school which can only be attributed to pure hard work and dedication.

In a rare moment in Texas State championships, both the girls and boys basketball teams won a State title. The Mustangs from Shallowater executed a 47-45 overtime victory over Argyle, thus winning the class 2A boys championship game. Just a week earlier, the Fillies, the girls team from Shallowater, triumphed over Aubrey with a dramatic 44-37 win and captured the girls 2A State championship game.

This is no small feat for a rural community high school like Shallowater to achieve what it has in this past week. These students have shown exemplary performance and proven what a commitment can do.

Shallowater is the home of champions. The players, Coach Chuck Darden, and Coach Ray Morris will go down in history as the folks who put their town in the spotlight through determination and hard work.

#### SALUTE TO THE GREY BERETS

(Mr. ISAKSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all of our men and women in harm's way in Iraq and our Operation Iraqi Freedom, but in particular to focus on the Grey Berets Special Operation Forces Weathermen.

Although the war had not commenced as of this date a year ago, already for weeks on the ground many brave soldiers from these forces had infiltrated Iraq, had set up meteorological operations and were communicating to our pilots, to our Air Force, to our Navy, our Marines and Army the critical weather information necessary for a safe, a death-free, as much as possible, and a successful invasion of Iraq and the liberation of the Iraqi people.

Tonight, the Weather Channel Network will feature a 1-hour special on these brave men and women who went into harm's way before battle began, who hid, who worked, who got the data, and made sure our pilots, our Navy, our Marines, and Air Force had the information they needed.

I commend these brave Grey Berets. I commend the Weather Channel Net-

work for paying special tribute to them on this day.

#### IRAQ'S INTERIM CONSTITUTION

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS, Mr. Speaker, on the 1-year anniversary of the war in Iraq, I rise to applaud the Iraqi civil leaders who last Monday on March 8 signed the interim constitution, the Transitional Administrative Law. With the adoption of this law, the governing council has taken a historic step forward towards a democratic Iraq. It took only 12 months, Mr. Speaker, to defeat Saddam Hussein and transition to an interim constitution.

Now, my colleagues, it took 6 years for the first State in the Union, Delaware, to ratify our Constitution, and several more years before the original 13 finally ratified.

Iraq is moving at a much faster pace. One year ago, the naysayers said we did not have enough forces in place to defeat Iraq's military. Naysayers said we could never find Saddam Hussein; and naysayers doubted that we could get Kurds, Shia, and Sunni Muslims to agree on anything.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year later the naysayers are wrong.

#### IRAQ REPLACES NEW HAMPSHIRE IN PRIMARY

(Mr. OBEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OBEY, Mr. Speaker, I am so excited by what I just heard that I expect that we will fully see Iraq replace New Hampshire on the Presidential primary circuit before long.

#### PERMISSION TO REVISE AND EXTEND ON HOUSE RESOLUTION H. RES. 557, RELATING TO LIBERATION OF IRAQI PEOPLE

Mr. OBEY, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend my remarks and include extraneous material during the House debate on the Iraqi resolution later today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

#### CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE IN WESTERN IOWA

(Mr. KING of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only because of St. Patrick's Day but because it is also National Agriculture Week. Iowa ranks number one in the Nation in corn, soybean, pork and egg production, and second in total